Press Release



Berlinale: Spotlight on the City

Berlin expects lots of interest in the 64th international film festival / Berlinale service: tickets available from *visitBerlin*

Berlin, 6 February 2014 The spotlight of the international film industry will be turned on Berlin in the coming days. From 6–16 February, cinema buffs, journalists and stars of the international film industry will gather for the 64th Berlinale, Berlin's international film festival. International stars like George Clooney, Uma Thurman, Tilda Swinton and Matt Damon have announced that they're attending.

Burkhard Kieker, CEO of *visitBerlin*, comments: "Berliners and visitors to our city are eagerly awaiting the Berlinale. There are some particularly interesting premières with major stars awaiting this year's audiences."

Positive impact on tourism: more than 100,000 film buffs from Germany and abroad are expected. Last year, about 300,000 tickets were sold, not counting industry passes. In addition, approximately 16,000 trade visitors and 4,000 journalists from eighty countries will be coming to Berlin for the festival.

visitBerlin offers Berlinale service

If you're looking to join the fun at the Berlinale but don't want to spend hours standing in line at the office, buy your tickets for the film festival from *visitBerlin*. Berlinale tickets can be reserved by calling the Berlin Service Center at +49(0)30 - 25 00 25; they will be sent by mail to your home. Offer available while supplies last. Three Berlin Tourist Infos are also selling Berlinale tickets in person. Sales begin three days in advance of the showing; for repeat showings of the competition entries, sales begin four days in advance.

Cinemas, filming locations and tips for celebrity spotting: You can find all sorts of information about Berlin as one of the world's film metropolises at visitBerlin.com. You can read all about the latest news about prominent visitors to the Berlinale as well as news about audience favourites and the latest film reviews in our Berlinale Blog.

The city takes a star turn

In the opening film "Grand Budapest Hotel" by Wes Anderson and George Clooney's "Monuments Men", celebrating its world première at the Berlinale, the city of Berlin takes centre stage in the film world. The German co-productions were both shot mostly in and around Berlin.

Berlinale on the go: Locations of famous Berlin film scenes can be visited by taking the Berlinale Film Tour on a video bus (tour provider <u>Zeitreisen</u>). "Glitz and Glamour: Cycling to the Berlinale" is a guided bicycle tour of Berlinale 2014 locations offered by tour provider <u>Berlin on Bike</u>.

Another première in the city: The first "Avant Première" will take place in parallel to the Berlinale from 8–12 February. The festival which has taken place for forty years in Cannes is an international platform for the film industry on music in the media.

visitBerlin / Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH

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Berlin Service Center of *visitBerlin*: Tel. +49(0)30 – 25 00 25 (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-2pm) Berlin Tourist Infos: Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) (daily 8am-10pm); Neues Kranzler Eck, Kurfürstendamm 22 (Mon-Sat 9.30am-8pm) and Brandenburg Gate (daily 9.30am-6pm).

visitBerlin

"We know Berlin." Berlin Tourismus & Congress GmbH, under the brand *visitBerlin*, has been using that knowledge since 1993 to promote Berlin all over the world as a great travel destination. *visitBerlin*'s Berlin Convention Office markets the many convention and meeting options offered by the German capital. After London and Paris, Berlin is the third-most popular European city for tourism, with 24.9 million overnight stays in the German capital during 2012. Berlin is also one of the most popular destinations for conventions and meetings and is likewise ranked third. As a tour operator, *visitBerlin* offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. *visitBerlin* operates five Berlin Tourist Infos. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. +49(0)30-25 00 25) provides information on the complete spectrum of tourist services in Berlin. At <u>visitBerlin.de</u>, you can access information about Germany's capital in 13 languages.

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